

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 06018 041409Z

67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /031 W

----- 048328

R 041245Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3101

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 6018

STATE FOR OES, CU

PASS AID

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TGEN, EG, OSCI

SUBJECT: SFCP - NEW MFA FOCAL POINT

1. SUMMARY - MFA HAS PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT, AND FOR SFCP IN OFFICE FORMERLY CONCERNED ONLY WITH MULTILATERAL "DONOR" ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. OFFICER IN CHARGE, COUNSELLOR MAHMOUD ABDEL RAZIK, WHO HAS NO PRIOR INVOLVEMENT WITH SFCP STATED DESIRE TO RELATE ALL INCOMING "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" TO FIVE YEAR PLAN AND INDICATED THAT MFA WOULD TRY TO PLAY A MORE DIRECT COORDINATING ROLE. INFORMAL WORKING RELATION WITH EMB. ON SFCP WAS REITERATED, ALONG WITH REQUEST FOR EMB. ASSISTANCE IN INSURING "PROJECT RELEVANCE". END SUMMARY.

2. SCIATT CALLED ON MFA COUNSELLOR MAMDOUH ABDEL RAZIK AT HIS REQUEST, ON APRIL 28. MR. ABDEL RAZIK SAID THAT HE WAS TAKING OVER MFA RESPONSIBILITY FOR SFCP PROGRAMS FROM COUNSELLOR AHMAD NAMEK. MR. NAMEK, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, SAID HE WAS EXPECTING AN OVERSEAS POSTING SOON.

3. ABDEL RAZIK, WHO HAS BEEN MFA OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR MULTILATERAL "DONOR" TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN EGYPT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAIRO 06018 041409Z

E.G. UNDP, SAID THAT IN FUNCTIONAL REGROUPING, ALL "TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE" ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL WERE NOW BOTH INCLUDED IN HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. THE PURPOSE IS TO ALLOW BETTER COORDINATION OF ALL "FOREIGN ASSISTANCE" IN EGYPT (NAMEK HAD HANDLED SFCP AS A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FROM UNDERSECRETARY SHALABY, TO WHOM ABDEL RAZIK IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE). HE SAID THAT HIS CONCERN WAS TO PREVENT DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AND TO FOCUS RESOURCES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON EGYPTIAN PRIORITIES PARTICULARLY AS THEY APPEAR IN FIVE YEAR PLAN. AT FIRST MEETING HE WANTED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PROGRAMS AND TO ELICIT EMBASSY COOPERATION, IN PRINCIPLE, IN INSURING "RELEVANCE" OF PROGRAMS AND ELIMINATING "DUPLICATION", (AS EXAMPLE HE CITED "LARGE NUMBER OF BILHARZIA PROJECTS SCATTERED AMONG EGYPTIAN INSTITUTIONS;" SAYING SOME SHOULD PROBABLY BE CONSOLIDATED). MR. NAMEK HAD LEFT HIM A BACKLOG OF PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY GOE AGENCIES FOR MFA CONCURRENCE AND HE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT FREQUENTLY WITH SCIATT AS HE GOT INTO THEM. AT THIS POINT HE WANTED TO INITIATE "OFF THE RECORD" INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON THE PROGRAM, AND SOLICIT VIEW ON HOW MFA AND EMB. MIGHT BEST COOPERATE.

4. SCIATT DESCRIBED SFCP PROGRAM, AND EMBASSY ROLE, REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR'S AGREEMENT WITH MINISTER OF STATE MOHAMED RIAD. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT SFCP WAS NOT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OPERATED UNDER DIFFERENT RULES THAN UNDP OR AID, AND NOTED THAT EMB. AND USG AGENCIES ALSO WISHED TO EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE RESOURCES, PREVENT DUPLICATION AND INSURE RELEVANCE. INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES AND CAPACITIES, IN BOTH GOE AND USG WERE NORMAL INPUTS IN PRIORITY DETERMINATION. OVER ALL TERMS OF REFERENCE LIKE FIVE YEAR PLAN MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING RELEVANCE. ALSO, ABDEL RAZIK WAS TOLD THAT CERTAIN US DOMESTIC RELEVANCE CRITERIA MUST APPLY IN ORDER TO ALLOW US AGENCIES TO FUND PROJECTS. SCIATT EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITY WAS A STRENGTH OF SFCP AND THAT DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN US AND EGYPTIAN AGENCIES IN "GROUND UP" DEVELOPMENT WAS NECESSARY TO VIABILITY OF SFCP. EMB. WOULD OF COURSE COOPERATE WITH MFA IN DEVELOPING SMOOTH PROCEDURES AND WELCOMED CONTINUED CLOSE INFORMAL CONTACT. ABDEL RAZIK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES GOVERNED SFCP AND WASN'T SUGGESTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAIRO 06018 041409Z

THAT PROGRAMS BE DISTORTED, ONLY THAT MAXIMUM WEIGHT BE GIVEN TO EGYPT'S PRIORITIES AND TO POTENTIAL DIRECT BENEFIT FOR EGYPTIAN PEOPLE IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT (HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED TO REFER TO SFCP AS "DONOR" PROGRAMS DURING ENTIRE CONVERSATION). HE ASKED FOR EMB. VIEWS ON THIS SCIATT MENTIONED ROLE OF JWG'S IN THIS CONTEXT. IT WAS AGREED TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER AT NEXT INFORMAL MEETING AT WHICH TIME AMBASSADOR'S AGREEMENT WITH RIAD WILL ALSO BE REEMPHASIZED.

5. SCIATT ASKED WHAT MFA NOW SAW AS PRIMARY CONCERNS WITH WHICH EMB. MIGHT ASSIST. NAMEK SAID RATIONALIZATION OF VARIOUS NEGOTATING AND PAYMENT PRACTICES AMONG GOE AGENCIES WAS DIFFICULT. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND HIMSELF CONTINUOUSLY HAVING TO GO INTO DETAILS OF COSTS WITH INDIVIDUAL RESERACHERS SINCE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DEA "CENTRALLY" WITH AGENCIES. INVOICES AND FIXED PRICES FOR EQUIPMENT WERE ACCETED; HIS FOCUS WAS ON SALARIES AND HIDEEN CHARGES. HE ASKED IF EMB. GUIDELINES WERE NOW IN EFFECT AND WAS TOLD THEY WERE. HE WAS REMINED THAT GOE PAYSCALES WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US; ALSO A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MFA REQUIREMENTS WERE WITH RESPECT TO GOE AGENCIES. SCIATT WAS OFTEN ASKED ABOUT THIS BE EGYPTIAN RESERACHERS AND HAD ALWAYS REFERRED CALLED TO NAMEK. THIS INFO COULD HELP US AGENCIES RATIONALIZE PRACTICES. NAMEK SAID ALL GOE INSTITUTIONS WERE SUPPOSED TO CLEAR PROJECTS FOR "SUITABILITY" AND NOW FOR BUDGET AS WELL, WITH MFA, BUT THAT THERE WERE INCONSISTENCIES ADN MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN COMPLIANCE. ABDEL RAZIK THEN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE INFLATIONARY ASPECTS OF SFCP EXPENDITURES. SCIATT SAID ANNUAL NEW OBLIGATION FIGURE WAS AT \$5 MILLION/YR., EXPENDITURES BEING DISTRUBUTED AMONG VAROUS INSTITUTIONS AND SECTORS.

6. COMMENT: ABDEL RAZIK'S TENDENCE TO LUMP TOGETHER "DONOR" DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SFCP PROJECTS IN CONVERSATION PROBABLY COMES NATURALLY GIVEN HIS BACKGROUND. HOWEVER, FACT THAT MFA HAS BUREAUCRATICALLY COMBINED THESE AREAS INDICATES MFA MAY ATTEMPT TO PLAY INTERAGENCY COORDINATING ROLE IN THIS AREA. NAMEK HAD IN EARILER MTGS. ASKED CASUALLY ABOUT HOW AID RELATED TO MFA. HOW MFA WOULD RELATED TO OTHER AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY MIN. OF ECONOMIC PLANNING IS UNCLEAR. WHEN ASKED ABOUT GOE INTERAGENCY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 CAIRO 06018 041409Z

COORDINATION IN THIS AREA ABDEL RAZIK RESPONDED, "THAT'S MY RESONSIBILITY". HE MAY FIND, AS DID NAMEK, THAT COORDINATION HERE IS QUITE TIME CONSUMING FOR ONE MAN WITH OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC GRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO06018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760172-0142
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760595/aaaaddip.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SFCP - NEW MFA FOCAL POINT
TAGS: TGEN, OSCI, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006